

## Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Scientific Board of the FF MU on 5 December 2024

Venue: the FF MU Dean's meeting room, building C, second floor + online

### 1. Appointment procedure - doc. PhDr. Daniel Drápala, Ph.D.

**Field:** Ethnology

**The Chair:**

prof. PhDr. Alena Křížová, Ph.D.

**Members:**

prof. PhDr. Alexandra Bitušíková, CSc.

Prof. Dr. Waldemar Tadeusz Kuligowski

prof. PhDr. Zdeněk R. Nešpor, Ph.D.

prof. PhDr. Aleš Zářický, Ph.D.

**Course of the procedure:** At the beginning of the procedure, the Chair of the Evaluation Board, Prof. Křížová, introduced the applicants and summarised the course of the Board's work.

In his lecture entitled *From People to Community. On the transformation of one of the basic categories of ethnological research*, D. Drápala approached the key categories of ethnological research - not only in the context of the changes of the disciplinary discourse in the 19th and 20th centuries, but also with regard to the social context. He pointed out the ambiguity of the concept of the people and its different definitions in various contexts and situations (territorial, socio-territorial, cultural-social aspects). Therefore, modern ethnology does not work with this collectively conceived entity and uses the concept of tradition as an integrating element of different social categories, as a process of transfer of knowledge, experience, values and norms. Instead of the people, research focuses on the role of the individual and the community, which is a more homogeneous entity with a more rigid structuring, role delineation and shared identity. In the second part of the presentation, the role of the individual and community in relation to selected components of immaterial culture was approached through case probes. These probes are based on D. Drápala's research focusing on historical and contemporary forms of culture. They are also related to the concept of intangible cultural or living heritage, which he has been intensively working on in recent years.

The lecture was followed by a lively discussion in which doc. Drápala answered numerous questions of the members of the Scientific Board.

**Conclusion:** the Scientific Board of the FF MU agrees with the proposal to appoint doc. PhDr. Daniel Drápala, Ph.D., as a Professor in the field of Ethnology.

**Voting result:**

Number of members of the Scientific Board: 34

Number of members of the Scientific Board present: 30

Number of votes cast: 29

Number of positive votes: 29

## 2. Habilitation procedure - Mgr. Martin Lang, Ph.D.

### Field: Psychology

#### The Chair:

prof. PhDr. Marek Blatný, DrSc.

#### Members:

Prof. Josepf Bulbulia, Ph.D.

doc. PhDr. Ilona Gillernová, CSc.

doc. PhDr. Martin Jelínek, Ph.D.

doc. PhDr. Dalibor Kučera, Ph.D.

**Course of the procedure:** At the beginning of the procedure, the Chair of the Habilitation Board, Prof. Blatný, introduced the applicant and summarized the course of the Board's work.

Dr. Lang gave a lecture entitled *Anxiety and ritualization: Can religious rituals decrease anxiety?* Rituals are found in all known human societies, from religious ceremonies to sports, gambling and psychological disorders. One reason for their ubiquity may be their role in reducing anxiety caused by uncontrollable threats. Although this hypothesis was originally proposed more than a century ago, experimental research on the mechanisms linking the ritualization of events to anxiety reduction remains limited. In his lecture, dr. Lang defined ritualization as repetitive, rigid, and redundant actions and stated that such actions minimize unpredictability and facilitate predictability and control, which are necessary for managing anxiety in uncertain situations. In an experimental test of these hypotheses in the laboratory, they found that anxiogenic contexts elicit ritualized behaviour and that these behaviours can in turn help reduce anxiety. Further testing of this mechanism during ritualized prayers in a Marathi community in Mauritius showed that ritualized prayers help reduce anxiety, although further research is needed to understand how ritualization interacts with belief in God, social support, and other important features of a complex religious environment.

The lecture was followed by a lively discussion in which dr. Lang answered questions from the opponents and members of the Scientific Board.

**Conclusion:** the Scientific Board of the FF MU agrees with the proposal to appoint Mgr. Martin Lang, Ph.D., as an Associate Professor in the field of Psychology.

#### Voting result:

Number of members of the Scientific Board: 34

Number of members of the Scientific Board present: 29

Number of votes cast: 29

Number of positive votes: 27

doc. Mgr. Irena Radová, Ph.D.  
Dean

Written by: prof. PhDr. Mgr. Tomáš Knoz, Ph.D.  
Mgr. Kateřina Kalová, Ph.D.